

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

LOS ANGELES RIVER CENTER AND GARDENS
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MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
of the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
and the
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 28, 2002

1. Call to order.

The joint meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee was called to order by Conservancy Chair Michael Berger, at 7:43 p.m. on October 28, 2002 at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, 570 West Avenue Twenty Six, Los Angeles, California.

2. Administration of oath of office to new members.

The Executive Director administered the oath of office to Hayden Sohm.

3. Roll Call of Conservancy.

The Conservancy roll was called and the following members were present: Elizabeth Cheadle, Woody Smeck, Hal Ross, Hayden Sohm, Steve Treanor, Jonathan Zasloff, Jerome C. Daniel, Vice Chair, and Michael Berger, Chair. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Ed Begley, Jr., Russell Guiney, David Allgood, and Steve Horn.

The following Legislative member was present: Jackie Goldberg.

The following Legislative member designees were present: Laura Plotkin, and George Magallanes. The following Legislative member designees were absent: Susan McEntire, Henry Lo, and Mary Sue Maurer.

4. Roll Call of Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee roll was called and the following members were present: Charles Beatty, Dave Brown, Michael Cacciotti, Ed Corridori, Mark Johnson, Roseann Mikos, Linda Palmer, Anthony Portantino, Richard Gould, Alan Kishbaugh, Thomas Seifert, Nancy Stephens, Marc Stirdivant, Kenneth Warner, Timothy Wendler, Don Robinson, Vice Chair, and George Lange, Chair. Quorum present. The following members were absent: Caroline Brown, Lesley Devine, Jeff Jennings, Terre Hirsch, Barry Read, and Paul Rockenstein.

Staff present: Joseph T. Edmiston, AICP, Executive Director; Rorie Skei, Chief Deputy Director; Laurie Collins, Chief Counsel; MRCA staff: Reva Concoff, Deputy Executive Officer and Chief of Operations; Katherine Chew, Staff Counsel; Gary Lysik, Chief of Finance; Stephanie Landregan, Landscape Architect; Juliet Chung, Associate Governmental Program Analyst; Tim Miller, Chief of Construction; Dan Tholund, Deputy Chief Ranger; Chuck Arnold, Project Analyst; Jan Wolterstorff, Public Outreach Coordinator and Project Analyst, Tracy Dockery, Staff Services Manager, and James Yeramian, Board Secretary.

Representing the Office of the Attorney General was Nedra Austin, Deputy Attorney General.

5. Minutes.

The minutes of September 23, 2002 were submitted for approval.

The minutes of September 23, 2002 were approved as submitted.

6. Reports.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from the Chair.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Ms. Goldberg.

The Conservancy received a verbal report from Ms. Soghor.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Lethbridge.

Comments were made by Mr. Young.

7. Special recognition of Conservancy Board members Russell Guiney and Steven Treanor.

Comments were made by the Executive Director and Mr. Treanor.

8. Members comments on matters not on the agenda.

Comments were made by Ms. Briner-Schmidt.

9. Comments from members of the public on items not on the agenda and public testimony on all agenda items.

The following persons addressed the Conservancy:

Lucille Lemon, member of public, on item 19.
Maya Rumbel, member of public, on item 19.
Scott Wilson, representing NET, on item 19.
Gordon Murley, representing the Woodland Hills Homeowners Association, on item 10(h), and 10(k).
Mary Benson, member of public, on the future of Hansen Dam.
Jeff Chapman, representing Audubon California, on item 19.
Debra Baumann, representing the Hansen Dam Lakes Coalition.
Thomas Bird, member of public, on item 19.
Nancy Smith, representing the Committee for Safe Children, on item 19.
Denise Weinstock, representing the Mount Washington Home Owners Alliance, on item 19.
Michael Tunick, representing the Briar Summit Homeowner's Association, on item 10(g).
Suzanne Monriques, representing Supervisor Gloria Molina, on item 19.
Mark Kenyon, representing Antonio Villaraigosa, on item 19.
Clare Marter Kenyon, member of public, on item 19.
Ingrid Brown, member of public, on item 10(f).
Laura Knolls, member of public, on item 19.

10. Consent Calendar:

- (a) Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept the donation of APN 8264-011-011, City of Industry.**
- (b) Consideration of resolution authorizing application for grant funds from the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for the Santa Susana Pass properties, Los Angeles.**
- (c) Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority or its designee apply for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant funds for (a) Phase I development of Confluence Park; (b) Development of Artesian Park, and (c) Mini-park development on the east bank of the Los Angeles River from Fletcher to Glendale, Los Angeles.**

- (d) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept an offer to dedicate a coastal access easement or in the alternative accept a grant of a coastal access easement on and over APN 4470-024-060 to be located adjacent to Lot I, Tract 10630, Lechuza Beach, Malibu.**
- (e) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority enter into loan agreements repayable only upon the availability of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, to complete the acquisition of APN 2427-006-005, Oakshire Canyon, Los Angeles.**
- (f) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority exercise the option agreement for APN 2274-025-001, Oak Forest Canyon, and enter into a loan agreement repayable only upon the availability of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Sherman Oaks.**
- (g) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (a) acquire the 52-acre Briar Summit property within the Laurel Canyon East Core Habitat area (APNs 5570-020-007 and 008; 5570-021-018, 019, and 020); (b) authorize acceptance of grants and donations for said acquisition, and (c) enter into loan agreements repayable only upon the availability of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Los Angeles.**
- (h) **Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation authority (a) acquire the 21 acre Chalk Hills property (APNs 2166-013-015 and 016); (b) authorize acceptance of grants and donations for said acquisition, and (c) enter into loan agreements repayable only upon the availability of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 2, Woodland Hills.**
- (i) **Consideration of resolution authorizing exercise of right of first refusal pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 33207 to acquire approximately 12 acres of excess Los Angeles County owned property located in the northeast and southwest corners of the Calabasas Highlands subdivision, Calabasas.**
- (j) **Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire APNs 2821-008-**

023 and 037; 2821-009-026 and 027; 2821-014-014; 2821-015-004; 2821-016-008 and 009; 2821-019-006, 008, 027, 029, 031, and 033 in the Browns and Devil Canyon watershed, unincorporated Chatsworth area.

- (k) Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the American Land Conservancy for acquisition planning services for West Mulholland Trailhead (21000 Mulholland), Los Angeles.**
- (l) Consideration of resolution augmenting previously authorized grants to include cost allocation and all other costs directly associated with the execution and delivery of the grants.**
- (m) Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to augment Upper Mandeville Canyon improvements, and authorizing any budget amendments necessary.**
- (n) Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority apply proceeds from the sale of Avatar Phase II to refund Proposition A administrative costs.**

Item 10(h) was removed from the agenda.

Items 10(a), 10(e), 10(f), and 10(n) were removed from the Consent Calendar.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Gould, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution Nos. 02-130, 02-131, 02-132, 02-135, 02-137, 02-138, 02-139, 02-140, and 02-141

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution Nos. 02-130, 02-131, 02-132, 02-135, 02-137, 02-138, 02-139, 02-140, and 02-141.

(The full text of these resolutions are attached.)

- 10(a). Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority accept the donation of APN 8264-011-011, City of Industry.**

Questions were propounded by Mr. Wendler.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Wendler and Beatty.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

10(e). Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority enter into loan agreements repayable only upon the availability of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, to complete the acquisition of APN 2427-006-005, Oakshire Canyon, Los Angeles.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Warner.

Comments were made by Mr. Zasloff.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

10(f). Consideration of resolution recommending that the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority exercise the option agreement for APN 2274-025-001, Oak Forest Canyon, and enter into a loan agreement repayable only upon the availability of funds from the Santa Monica Mountains Open Space Preservation Assessment District No. 1, Sherman Oaks.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Warner.

Comments were made by Mr. Zasloff.

Questions were propounded by the Chair.

Comments were made by Mr. Edelman.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Seifert, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Treanor, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution Nos. 02-129, 02-133, and 02-134.

The Chair announced that items 19 and 20 would be heard out of sequence from the rest of the agenda.

19. Consideration of resolution adopting Project Plan for Heidelberg Park, Mount Washington, Los Angeles.

Comments were made by Mr. Brown.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-148.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Cheadle, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-148.

Comments were made by Ms. Cheadle, Ms. Goldberg, and Mr. Zasloff.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

20. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire approximately 18.72 acres, Heidelberg Park (APN 5471-013-001), Mount Washington area, Los Angeles, and authorizing any budget amendments necessary.

Comments were made by Mr. Brown.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Brown, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-149.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-149.

11. Presentation and distribution of the Los Angeles River Studio Book-Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Department of Landscape Architecture.

Comments were made by Mr. Arnold.

12. Presentation and discussion on the National Park Service Heart of the Park Shuttle Demonstration Project.

Comments were made by Ms. Conway.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Beatty.

Comments were made by Ms. Conway.

Questions were propounded by Messrs. Ross, Smeck, Treanor, and Brown.

Comments were made by Ms. Conway.

13. Presentation on status and plans of Friends of the Conservancy, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Ms. Kess.

Questions were propounded by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Messrs. Ross and Zasloff.

Comments were made by Ms. Kess.

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Friends of the Conservancy FY 02/03.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Questions were propounded by Mr. Lange.

This item was postponed until later in the meeting.

15. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to Los Angeles County on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Topanga Condominium project, Vesting Tentative Tract No. 53235, unincorporated Chatsworth area.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Mikos, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-144.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-144.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

16. Consideration of resolution authorizing a comment letter to the City of Malibu on Malibu Bay Company Development Agreement Draft Environmental Impact Report, Trancas Creek, Malibu Rivera South Creek, Winter Canyon Sub-basin, and Malibu Creek watersheds.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Stephens, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-145.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Zasloff, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-145.

(The full text of this resolution is attached.)

17. **Consideration of resolution awarding a nonprofit organization grant to People for Parks Charitable Fund for Montecito Heights acquisition study, Los Angeles.**

This item was postponed to another date.

(The full text of these resolutions are attached.)

18. **Consideration of resolution adopting Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy FY 01-02 annual report.**

Comments were made by Ms. Skei.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Stephens, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-147.

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Daniel, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-147.

21. **Closed Session: (The Conservancy may hold a closed session on the following items pursuant to Section 11126 Subdivision (c)(7)(A), Section 11126.3(a), and Section 11126 Subdivision (e) of the Government Code. Confidential memoranda related to the following items may be considered during such closed session discussions.) Discussion and possible action regarding pending and/or potential litigation: *Tucker v. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority et al.; City of Malibu v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; City of Malibu v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.; Ramirez Canyon Preservation Fund v. California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al.; Malibu-Encinal Home Owners Association, Inc. v. Lechuza Villas West, LLP, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, State Coastal Conservancy et al.; Los Amigos de Caballero Canyon v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy et al., and Albert Allen, Marilyn Stefano, Gloria Tregurtha and BadTax, Inc. v. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.***

The Chair called a closed session at 10:32 p.m. pursuant to Government Code Section 11126 Subdivision (a)(1).

The Chair reconvened the open session at 10:43 p.m.

14. Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Friends of the Conservancy FY 02/03.

Comments were made by Ms. Lethbridge and Mr. Beatty.

Comments were made by Messrs. Daniel, Treanor, and the Chair.

Questions were propounded by Ms. Cheadle.

Comments were made by the Executive Director.

Comments were made by Ms. Skei.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Ms. Briner-Schmidt, duly seconded, the Advisory Committee recommended adoption of Resolution No. 02-143

CONSERVANCY CONSIDERATION:

On motion of Mr. Ross, duly seconded, the Conservancy adopted Resolution No. 02-143.

22. Announcement of future meetings and adjournment.

The Chair announced that the next meeting would be held on November 25, 2002.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, AICP

MICHAEL BERGER

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Executive Director

Chair